

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is respectfully submitted in response to the Office action dated July 15, 2004. The deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended to January 18, 2004 (Jan. 15 was a Saturday, Monday Jan. 17 was a Patent Office Holiday) by way of a Request for a 3 month extension of time submitted herewith.

I. Introduction

Claims 1, 4, 15-17, 22, 25-28, and 37-38 have been amended. Claims 12-14, 41 and 43-50 have been canceled without prejudice to expedite issuance of this application. Accordingly, claims 1-11, and claims 15-40 and 42 are now pending.

In the July 14, 2004 Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 15, 16, 18-21, 25, 26, 28, 30, 36-40 and 43-50 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gilbert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,939 in view of Yogeshwar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,714).

While rejecting various claims, **the Examiner indicated that numerous claims were directed to allowable subject matter** and indicated that they would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which they depended. **The claims the Examiner indicated were directed to allowable subject matter included claims 14, 17, 22-24, 27, 29, 31-35, 41 and 42.**

Applicants reviewed the Examiner's statements regarding allowable subject matter and have amended the independent claims so that each independent claim now includes subject matter which Applicants believe the Examiner found to be allowable. Accordingly, as will be discussed below, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. All of the Pending Claims Are Allowable

1. Claims 1-11 and 15-21 Are Allowable

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that dependent claim 14 was directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 14 as well as claims 12 and 13 from which claim 14 depended.

Accordingly, amended **claim 1 is the same as allowable claim 14 rewritten in independent form.** Claims 12-14 have been canceled in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 2-11 and 15-21 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1 and are therefore also now in condition for allowance for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

2. Claims 22-24 Are Allowable

In the Office action the Examiner indicated that claims 22-24 were directed to allowable subject matter.

Allowable claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 22 and claims 23-24 which depend there from are believed to be in condition for allowance.

3. Claims 25 and 26 Are Allowable

Independent claims 25 and 26 have been rewritten to include features which are similar to the features of claim 14 (which were added to amended claim 1) that the Examiner found to be allowable.

Accordingly, while original claim 14 was directed to a method, and claim 25 is directed to a digital storage medium and claim 26 is directed to a system, it is believed that these claims are allowable for similar reasons to the reasons the Examiner found claim 14 to be allowable.

4. Claims 27-37 Are Allowable

Claim 27 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 27 along with claims 28-37 which depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

5. Claims 38-40 and 42 Are Allowable

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claim 41 was directed to allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 38 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 41 and claim 41 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 38 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 39-40 and 42 depend from claim 38 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons claim 38 was found to be allowable.

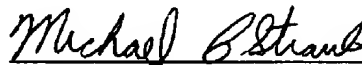
III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In the event that there are any outstanding issues that need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone so that any outstanding issues can be discussed and hopefully resolved in a prompt and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

January 17, 2005



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patents and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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January 17, 2005

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